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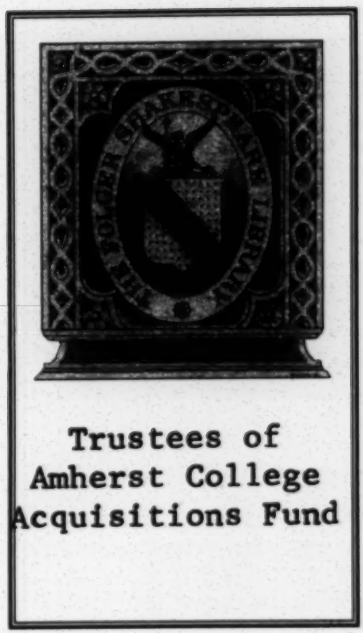

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THE Female Triumph:

OR

Miſtris *White* aſſerted,

By way of a REPLY to a thing, if not printed, certainly publiſhed and diſperſed

BY

Sir *Thomas Walſingham*,

Pretending a true Narrative of the buſineſs of

ELTHAM-PARK.

Sent in a Letter from a friend in Oxon *to a friend in* LONDON.

Printed in the Year, 1647.

917

THE

SIR,

BUt that these are times for Kings and Princes to be crusht, I should wonder such a grosse and palpable Oppression as that in Eltham-Park should ever finde in a Christian Common-wealth, especially in the year of Reformation, either an Author to design it, or an Instrument to effect it; and yet unto the improvement of my wonder, I finde a confident Scribler imployed for the space of five or six weeks, in vindicating and varnishing so foul a fact, and aspersing that honest plain Letter, wherein that poor Gentlewoman breaks out her sorrows in a short story, under the notion of a False and Scandalous Paper. I am ashamed to see men so void of bowels, that Losers, and those of the more tender Sex, must lose even that also, which the more merciful proverb allows them, Leave to speak. It is some small ease and refreshment, when we can pour forth our sorrows into the bosom of our familiar friends, and so take them in to a kinde of Society and Compartnership of our sufferings by a Christian fellow-feeling; which was the main Design of that singularly modest and vertuous Gentlewoman: and behold, even this must be denyed her, or blasted into the crime of Falshood and Scandal. Thus

having valiantly ſtormed her houſe, they proceed with equal valor to storm her [illegible] her, as out of the Park, to out of that very conſiderable Eſteem and Reputation, which was by this time become the beſt, if not the only remaining part of her Revenue.

Surely Sir, the victory cannot be very glorious over the female Sex; nay the very contemplation hath in it ſomething very unbecoming, which perhaps is the reaſon why the Author conceals his name, being aſhamed to foſter this his firſt begotten Baſtard. But neither muſt he run away with victory, nor is it in his power to render Miſtris *Whites* teſtimony leſs authentick, whoſe name is a precious ointment unto all that know her. The buſineſs was ſo notoriouſly known and obſerved in the country about, ſo abominated by all that had not ſuckt the milk of Tygers, that the very women of the Parish (as I have heard it upon credible information) impatient to behold ſuch wrongs and indignities to their Sex, were hardened into a maſculine reſolution to raiſe the ſiege, or at leaſt to run in a body to the Parliament door, to beſiege them with their importunity. And therefore who ever undertakes to juſtifie or patronize the action, hath a hard task to perform; touching this particular Narrative, ſo induſtriouſly diſperſed by Sir *Thomas Walſingham* in perſon, both at *Weſtminſter*-Hall and at Ordinaries; and other places of concourſe, nay paſted upon walls at *Greenwich*, as if it were a Proclamation, it is very eaſie to demonſtrate, That

where

where it runs counter to the Letter, it is but pure invention.

For first, it is positively affirmed, That Mr. *White* did unlawfully, and contrary to the Articles of *Oxford*, enter and take possession, without giving any sufficient warning, &c. That in an insolent maner, &c. That he sent a jeering Message, &c. In which words we have a knot or complication of Falshoods and Calumnies, whence it is easie to conclude, That whoso hath once let loose the reins to his carnal or worldly appetites, whoso makes no conscience of that scarlet sin of Oppression, the sin that brought the deluge upon the primitive inhabitants of the earth, will not scruple much at those lesser faults of coyning a few lyes.

1. He did not enter unlawfully, nor contrary to the Laws of God or Man, let the Adversary name the particular law which prohibited his entrance. Deceit lyes in generals: And whether were more illegal, his losing possession the first and second time, or his taking possession in the midst, let the world determine.

But who can indure the greatest violaters of the Law that ever this Kingdom brought forth, to exclaim against that in others, which they cherish in themselves.

Mr. *White* is so far from all thoughts of Illegality, That he desires no greater boon of Sir *Thomas Walsingham*, in the midst of his sufferings, then to lay his Priviledge asleep awhile, and to refer the Cause to the Kings-Bench Bar, so to stand or fall,

having valiantly ſtormed her houſe, they proceed with equal valor to ſtorm her Letter; and to hunt her, as out of the Park, ſo out of that very conſiderable Eſteem and Reputation, which was by this time become the beſt, if not the onely remaining part of her Revenue.

Surely Sir, the victory cannot be very glorious over the female Sex; nay the very conteſtation hath in it ſomething very unbecoming, which perhaps is the reaſon why the Author conceals his name, being aſhamed to foſter this his firſt begotten Baſtard. But neither muſt he run away with victory, nor is it in his power to render Miſtris *Whites* teſtimony leſs authentick, whoſe name is a precious ointment unto all that know her. The buſineſs was ſo notoriouſly known and obſerved in the countrey about, ſo abominated by all that had not ſuckt the milk of Tygers, that the very women of the Pariſh (as I have heard it upon credible information) impatient to behold ſuch wrongs and indignities to their Sex, were hardened into a maſculine reſolution to raiſe the ſiege, or at leaſt to run in a body to the Parliament door, to beſiege them with their importunity. And therefore who ever undertakes to juſtifie or patronize the action, hath a hard task to perform; touching this particular Narrative, ſo induſtriouſly diſperſed by Sir *Thomas Walſingham* in perſon, both at *Weſtminſter*-Hall and at Ordinaries, and other places of concourſe, nay paſted upon walls at *Greenwich*, as if it were a Proclamation, it is very eaſie to demonſtrate, That where

where it runs counter to the Letter, it is but pûre invention.

For firſt, it is poſitively affirmed, That Mr. *White* did unlawfully, and contrary to the Articles of *Oxford*, enter and take poſſeſſion, without giving any ſufficient warning, &c. That in an inſolent maner, &c. That he ſent a jeering Meſſage, &c. In which words we have a knot or complication of Falſhoods and Calumnies; whence it is eaſie to conclude, That whoſo hath once let looſe the reins to his carnal or worldly appetites, whoſo makes no conſcience of that ſcarlet ſin of Oppreſſion, the ſin that brought the deluge upon the primitive inhabitants of the earth, will not ſcruple much at thoſe leſſer faults of coyning a few lyes.

1. He did not enter unlawfully, nor contrary to the Laws of God or Man; let the Adverſary name the particular law which prohibited his entrance, Deceit lyes in generals: And whether were more illegal, his loſing poſſeſſion the firſt and ſecond time, or his taking poſſeſſion in the midſt, let the world determine.

But who can indure the greateſt violaters of the Law that ever this Kingdom brought forth, to exclaim againſt that in others, which they cheriſh in themſelves.

Mr. *White* is ſo far from all thoughts of Illegality, That he deſires no greater boon of Sir *Thomas Walſingham*, in the midſt of his ſufferings, then to lay his Priviledge aſleep awhile, and to refer the Cauſe to the Kings-Bench Bar, ſo to ſtand or fall,

fall, according to the Verdict of the Law.

2 He did not enter contrary to the Articles of *Oxford*, for by vertue of the Eleventh Article he was clearly to repair to his dwelling house, and there to abide (which is the very letter thereof) and why he of all men, might not enjoy the benefit of those Articles, without asking any man leave, he cannot imagine: The truth is, I finde the Army, in their Declaration of *June* 14. to touch upon this string, and I believe, not without a glance at Master *Whites* Case, so notoriously known both in city and countrey; when they desire, more care, and a stricter course may be taken, for making good all Articles upon surrender, according to the true intent thereof, and for reparation in case of breach, and that without the prejudicial Delays which divers have found: wherein, to their eternal honor, they manifest more love to Justice and Mercy, then some others of late have exercised; and there is hope, this Admonition of the Army may in time work some good effect, and that Sir *Thomas Walsingham* will lay it near his heart.

3. He ought not to have given sufficient warning, onely he was to allow a convenient time to such as were placed there under the Sequestration for their removal (these are the words of the aforesaid Eleventh Article) my Lord of *Essex* was then deceased, and of his servants few or none remained there, onely the good Keeper, formerly servant to Master *White*, now creature to Sir *Thomas*, he and his diminitive family belonging to the house, who

were

were to have convenient time for their removal, and as yet never were removed.

4. It was Master *Whites* own proper house, as much as a firm Lease for Fifty years, if he so long lived (a Lease examined narrowly, and approved by the Committee of the House of Commons touching Complaints for breach of Articles) could make it his own; what private man besides him could call it his own? Surely, if the office of keeping the Park was his own, the house pertaining meerly to that office was not another mans; upon which house and Park he affirms he hath expended above Two thousand pounds.

5. He sent no jeering Message to Sir *Thomas*, perhaps such a Message was delivered him, begotten upon the way by the malice of the Messenger, or more likely it was misconstrued by his own Jealousie: But Mr. *White*, understanding that the care of Eltham-Park was committed to Sir *Thomas*, he did with due civility and respect give him notice of his return to his house. And for that which follows, his faithful preservation of the Dear, as Mr. *White* said nothing to the contrary, so he conceives it comes a little too near to an impertinence in this place, and leaves him to render an account of his trust to such as may hereafter call him thereunto.

After all these Inventions bundled up together, it is to be confest there follows a plain truth, That Sir *Thomas* did not sleep over these great dangers, as another might have done; but with an early officious

officious haste gave notice hereof to the Committee of the Revenue, and to the House of Commons, presenting the business (you may be sure) in no lovely colours, That a special Committee was chosen to examine the whole, that they met often, and at last voted, That Mr. *White's* entry into the middle Park at Eltham was Illegal, and that Col: *Blunt* should restore Sir *Thomas* to his possession; from whence this conclusion seems to follow more naturally then the Illegality of Mr. *White's* proceedings, that there is no striving against two things, the Stream and a Parliament-man; and this, That for such as have the honor to be Malignants, it is an impossible thing to do any thing legally, in the modern sence of the word, that is, so as to please a Committee, for their pleasure is the law. God in his good time will restore unto us another kinde of Law for a rule of Justice, namely, The fixed and well known Law of the Land, against which if any man be found by fair Tryal a Delinquent, let him bear his burthen, whosoever he be.

To go on with our story, Mr. *White* is found to be disobedient unto the Order for his Ejection; wch truly in my apprehension proceeds both from that Charity which begins at home, and from that Faith which injoyns him to provide for his family: nor could he be so easily wrought upon, to deny the faith, and be worse then an Infidel.

Well, but the Disobedience is inhanced and aggravated, by his language to the Carpenters at work in the Park, he told them twice, The King

was

was coming, and other words of dangerous consequence; dangerous indeed, and fatal to the speaker, for they gave his Adversary too great an advantage: but to whom besides they were dangerous, it doth not appear. They indeed that have thriven by the Kings absence, they that have a guilty conscience, and have long presumed upon Impunity, as they wish not for his company, so neither endure they to hear of his coming. But by this time, now that the Army and the City too have petitioned for his coming, it appears his not coming is of dangerous consequence. If Mr. *White* miscalled the Wood-cutters (for so they were, being then on work, onely to make Stack-wood of Trees sold to the Collier) if he added, They might be hanged, without good warrant for what they did, at the Kings return (and more then that he added not, making not any mention of those that set them on work) 1. He was provoked at the sight of the great destruction of the Timber trees, which his duty as well as interest obliged him to preserve: And secondly, under favor, he conceives it Felony by the Law, to cleave out timber cut and squared for to convert it into fuel, without good Authority for so doing, which Authority they did not produce to him. And for the appellation that once indeed slipt from him, it was the zeal he owed unto the Queen his mistris, which carryed him that little space beyond his bounds: Howbeit, being he did not imprison these words, these words imprisoned him; for he was immediately condemned to the

Fleet, and there yet remaineth after six moneths durance: And if his enemies do conceive more of it then of a temerarious and unweighed form of speech; if they be brewing more mischief yet, by dashing him against the Priviledge of Parliament, he doth cheerfully rest himself on the All-ruling Providence, who gives short horns to curst creatures; and being their malice will know no bounds, he is brim-full of confidence their Power shall.

Now to the peculiar-business of the Letter; for all this while we have been detained with an Introduction, the Answer vindicates Sir *Thomas Walsingham*, by saying that he came not into the house with the Sheriff, nor was ever above stairs, nor ever at her chamber door, which may be granted without prejudice to the Letter: it is well known he stayed at an Alehouse, by the high-way side, a small distance from the Park, until the Sheriff had very earnestly sent unto him for to come; and being come, whether he were ashamed to look the Gentlewoman in the face, having such war in his heart; or whether the sight of her and her yong virgins might imprint in him some more compassion then he was resolved to shew; or lastly, whether he scorned to stoop so low, as to go up so high, certain it is he went not up the stairs: But he was in the house personally, and vertually above stairs, which was enough, if not too much; and I would fain know, whether such a plea, That he did not grinde, oppress, devour, when it was done by his direction, or (if no more) by his approbation, whether

whether (I ſay) ſuch a plea before the Tribunal of the juſt Judge of Heaven and Earth, will prove a more uſefull cloak then *Adams* fig-leaves. Can he be ſo meanly verſed in Scripture, as not to know and obſerve, That the death of *Uriah* is father'd upon *David*, though he were ſlain by the ſword of *Davids* Enemies, the children of *Ammon*; and that the murther of *Naboth* is laid to *Ahabs* charge, who had no hand therein, ſave onely by his ſubſequent approbation.

It is abundantly ſufficient to entitle Sir *Thomas* unto his ſhare in the fact, That he inſtigated, extenuated, countenanced the immediate Actors, That he ſet them on, when Col. *Blunt* had refuſed the office, that without him nothing had been done, though he ſtand never ſo much behinde the curtain: The civility of the Sheriff is acknowledged, but what is it civilly to intreat one to contribute to his own ruine? what lamentable civility is that, which goes in company with Injuſtice and Oppreſſion? Beſides, as he was civil, ſo Miſtris *White* was not furious, Furious! no ſurely, whoever knows her life and converſation, will hardly believe that cenſure, though uttered by an Oracle; her meekneſs and gentleneſs (to ſay nothing of her other vertues) being more conſpicuous and exemplary, rendring her no doubt precious in the ſight of God, however vilified and perſecuted by men: So that although in a very wiſe mans judgement, Oppreſſion might ſeem to juſtifie the madneſs, even of the wiſe, Nature and Reaſon both abhorring it, yet

ſure enough this furiouſneſs of Miſtris *White* is but pure invention of ſome other body; it is true, ſhe was not dumb before the ſhearer, let that be the particular praiſe of her Savior for ever; but neither was ſhe furious: and for threatning the death of any that ſhould aſſault her, I will believe it when I ſee Lambs turn to Tygers, and Doves become Birds of prey.

But ſomewhat muſt be ſaid to ſmoothe the way for the odious fact which followed; for upon this, the ſtair-head door was made faſt enough with good ſufficient nails, and in the inſtant her houſe was become her priſon; ſhe findes her ſelf ſhut up from the converſation of the living, deſigned and marked out as for death, a lingring death, by famine, having onely this ſad liberty left her, of quitting her proper habitation, and to go dwell with the beaſts of the field, ſomewhat leſs ſavage then the men of this generation. It is mentioned as a great favor (oh let all the world take notice of it) ſhe had ſix rooms left her, freely to go into: but had ſhe her Buttery, her Cellar, her Kitchin, her Wood yard? Would ſix empty rooms deceive her hunger, or quench her thirſt, or change winter into ſummer: If ſhe had ſix rooms, ſhe had alſo ſix Keepers, to intercept all proviſion, if but one were a ſtranger, and the reſt the uſual people of the houſe, now turned Cannibals, and practiſing to keep Women in ſtead of Deer, I pray how does that circumſtance qualifie the matter? rather it ſhould augment her fear, Keepers being ſo good

Marks-

Marks men; and rather it should increase her sorrows, to see such as had eaten their daily bread at her cost, now to become the cruel instruments to keep off bread from her, the unkindeness as of a familiar friend, so of an old and well respected servant, leave a deeper impression then of a meer stranger, or professed enemy: Surely it must redound unto the disadvantage of that old servant, that his name is mentioned upon this occasion, there being no ingenuous disinterested spirit but will abhor his Unthankfulness beyond his Cruelty, and yet his Cruelty too was surpassing, when once in the dead of night he boisterously broke into the upper rooms (to the great terror of these tender prisoners, being in their beds asleep) thinking indeed to have plundred them of that provision, which he presumed did keep them alive; but missing of that his aim, he took away the one end of the house from them, and nail'd them up into a narrower compass.

Well, whosoever they were, or how few soever, it is undeniable, that care was taken both night and day to prevent all commerce with these poor innocents, not so much as a godly Reverend Divine, having his eldest Daughter there confin'd, could prevail the second time for leave to go to them, no not with his spiritual food, the want whereof (as I am certainly informed) did more afflict and cast down Mistris *White* then any other particular of all her sufferings.

Thus it continued for a good space, the benefit even of a coal of fire or drop of water being denied

her

her by those merciless men (if I may call them men.)

When they saw her Resolution fixed and unmoveable, and that God stirred up some, composed of gentler principles to be helpful to her, though the relief she received might be termed (as the water of the Well of *Bethlehem* was termed by *David*) the blood of the men that went in jeopardy of their lives, by degrees they relent so far, as to wink at a a Cord and a Basket, the way which the poorest of prisoners do subsist by; and at length a Ladder was permitted for a time, then taken away; not for that lamentable reason which is suggested here, as if Mistris *White* or her companions came down to mar the Gardners labor, like the dog that bites the stone thrown at him: Be it known, That Mistris *White* hath better blood in her veins, and infinitely scorns that vile revenge; but indeed it was for fear of Sir *Thomas Walsingham* displeasure, who had probably allowed no such favor.

After fourteen weeks thus wofully spent, when Summer was now come on, and Sir *Thomas* began to long for possession, there came a fresh Power to void the house by force, not four onely, as the Answer affirms, but some nine or ten, as they affirm that had most reason to observe it: and these did unnail the doors, and take them down in such a gentle and civil manor, as Mistris *Whites* arm was black and blue for a while after; and with such respectful Language, That when the Virgins offered some reluctancy, it was said they were more troubled

bled with the yong Kitlins then with the old Cat; a very Elegant expreſſion, worthy of their mouths onely, whoſe hands were inſtrumental to ſuch foul Oppreſſion. It is confeſſed, Sir *Thomas* was not there in perſon; but the Neighbors affirm, there were three of his own ſervants, and their names will be produced upon a Legal Tryal.

And this is a more true Narrative of the buſines; and now the Sufferers will joyn iſſue, by appealing to all good people, how much ſhort of Barbariſm the uſage toward Miſtris *VVhite* and her company fell; and what can eaſily be added unto her affliction, her husband being in the Fleet, and ſhe thruſt out of her own houſe, glad now to imbarque her ſelf in the ſame bottom with him: And laſtly, how many grains of falſhood or ſcandal were contained in her Letter.

Sir, to conclude, I wiſh the Knight the grace of Repentance, that the burthen of this Oppreſſion may never lye heavie upon his ſoul. I wiſh that *England* were no longer the ſtage of ſo much violence and injuſtice: Let the Law of the Land have its ancient uninterrupted courſe, the birthright of each particular, and I dare ſay Mr. *VVhite* will deſire no greater favor; I am ſure it will never trouble,

Sir, Your very loving friend, E.P.

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